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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses concern over "difficulties" encountered by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, on the eve of the implementation of second phase of cease-fire agreement; urges Secretary-General to accelerate full deployment of peace-keeping force; Special Representative Yasushi Akashi recommends three amendments to electoral law.

+ In Rio de Janeiro this morning, Secretary-General and President of Brazil welcome Heads of State and Government to two-day summit meeting of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

+ Security Council renews mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for another six months, until 15 December; asks Secretary-General to submit proposal on restructuring of Force.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, meets for second day with POLISARIO representatives in Geneva; to go to Morocco over the weekend before traveling to Algeria for new round of talks.

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The President of the Security Council expressed "deep concern" today, on behalf of Council members, over "difficulties" encountered by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), on the eve of implementing the second phase of the cease-fire, in compliance with the Paris Accords of last October.

In a Presidential statement, read out by Council President Peter Noterdaeme (Belgium), the Council stressed the need for the second phase of the military arrangements to begin on 13 June, as planned, and urged the Secretary-General to accelerate the deployment of the full UNTAC peace-keeping force to Cambodia, and within the country.

It noted that during the meeting of the Supreme National Council of 10 June, one party was not able to allow the necessary deployment of UNTAC in

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areas under its control. The Council said that "any delay could jeopardize the whole peace process to which all Cambodian parties have agreed under the auspices of the United Nations and the Paris Conference".

Reaffirming the importance of the "full and timely" implementation of the Paris Accords, the Council commended the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi, and UNTAC in that regard. It reaffirmed that the Supreme National Council under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk was the "unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the transitional period, the sovereignty, independence, and unity of Cambodia are enshrined".

By the statement, the Council finally called on all the parties to comply strictly with the commitments they have accepted, and to respond affirmatively to the latest demands by UNTAC for co-operation in implementing the Accords.

On Wednesday, 10 June, Mr. Akashi said UNTAC would go ahead with the second phase of the peace plan despite Democratic Kampuchea's unwillingness to comply with the Paris Accords. He warned that if that party decided to step up their military activities, UNTAC would "have to bear in mind the right to self-defense of the other Cambodian parties".

In a related development, the Special Representative has recommended that the Security Council make three amendments to UNTAC's plan concerning the electoral law, according to a press communiqué issued today in Phnom Penh.

Regarding the criteria for voter registration, Mr. Akashi proposed that only people over 18 years of age and born in Cambodia be allowed to participate in the elections, with no exceptions. In addition, he suggested, three polling stations should be established outside of Cambodia, in a United Nations agency: in Paris or Geneva, in New York and in Australia. Finally, the portrait of Prince Sihanouk should not be used as an insignia of any party during the electoral process.

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In Rio de Janeiro this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, together with President Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil, welcomed Heads of State and Government to the opening session of the plenary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Twenty-eight speakers were scheduled to address the plenary this morning, the first of them being the Prime Minister of India, P.V. Narasimha. This afternoon 29 were to speak, starting with President George Bush of the United States.

This afternoon, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with the President of Argentina, Carlos Saúl Menem.

Yesterday, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to discuss humanitarian assistance to

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Yugoslavia. According to his spokesman, he and Mrs. Ogata also discussed the return of refugees from Bangladesh and the situation in Haiti.

The Secretary-General also received the Foreign Minister of Italy, Gianni de Michelis, and the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay. He met later with the Foreign Minister of Algeria, Lakhdar Brahimi, the Foreign Minister of Morocco, Abdellatif Filali, the Prime Minister of China, Li Peng, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Abdel Meguid.

Addressing the Rio Summit yesterday, Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told delegates that environmental degradation was increasingly a cause of population movements. The relationship between refugees and the environment had long been overlooked.

There were currently about 17 million refugees and displaced persons in the world, she said. More and more refugees had been forced to flee for a complex combination of reasons which were linked as much to population growth, poverty, famine and environmental degradation, as to mass violations of human rights, ethnic tensions and armed conflict. Mrs. Ogata said refugee movements themselves could lead to environmental destruction when large numbers of people were seaking sanctuary in ecologically fragile areas.

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The Security Council this morning extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six months period, until 15 December, and asked the Secretary-General to submit specific proposals on the restructuring of the Force.

The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 759 (1992), which asked the Secretary-General to submit his proposals no later than 1 September, after consulting with the troop-contributing Governments. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices and keep the Council informed of progress made. It asked that he submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution by 30 November, and called upon the parties concerned to continue cooperating with the Force.

The Secretary-General, in his report recommending the renewal of UNFICYP's mandate, had stressed that "the functions of UNFICYP remain valid and necessary". However, he said, as a result of its "uniquely unsatisfactory system of financing", the Council might soon have to decide how to respond to the withdrawal or reduction of one or more of the Force's main contingents.

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Mr. Yaqub-Khan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, held today a second meeting with a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) in Geneva, according to a press communiqué issued in Geneva. Characterized as

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helpful and constructive by the Special Representative, the meeting served to review and discuss the various points put forward by the head of the POLISARIO delegation, Mr. Mustapha Bashir.

After a visit to Morocco over the coming weekend for discussions with the authorities there, the Special Representative is due to travel to Tindouf in Algeria for a further round of talks with senior POLISARIO officials.

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